

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Mental Health

MEDICATION INFORMATION MANUAL



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Mental Health Medication Information Manual

PREFACE

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) Medication Information Manual is a guide to the most commonly prescribed medications. It is intended to assist caregivers and consumers in understanding the nature, purpose and possible side effects of each medicine. This information should also assist prescribing clinicians in the process of obtaining informed consent.

This manual is not intended to replace a frank and detailed discussion about the proposed medication between the prescribing clinician and the consumer (and guardian if applicable). The information given is not exhaustive and does not attempt to cover every issue involving a given medication. If a consumer has questions or concerns about a medication he or she is taking, it is always best to contact the prescribing clinician to discuss the specific issue. In particular, since many people see more than one doctor (for example, a primary care physician in addition to a psychiatrist), it is very important for the consumer to make sure that the prescribing clinician(s) are aware of all the medications currently being prescribed so that potential drug interactions can be assessed. Additional drug information may be found at the following sites:

psychoactive medications for children and adolescents at www.state.ma.us/dmh/publications/PsychoactiveBooklet.pdf; general drug information at www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html.

Medication is always just one element of a comprehensive health program. Exercise, diet, regular medical care, and appropriate counseling are other important parts of an overall plan to stay as healthy as possible. Consumers should work with their providers to address all of these issues.

This manual is in the public domain and may be reproduced as is in its current format. Both generic and brand names of drugs are used, for example, "sertraline (also known as Zoloft®)". No changes are to be introduced into the document except by the DMH Division of Clinical and Professional Services. It will be updated as advances in medicine and practice proceed. Changes that occur between editions of this manual will be added under **Section VII: Changes and/or Medications Added After Publication Date**. Suggestions for possible changes may be forwarded to my office.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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DISCLAIMER

The information, opinions and recommendations presented in this Department of Mental Health (DMH) Medication Information Manual are presented in summary form and are intended to provide individuals only with a broad understanding and knowledge of certain medications. Users of the Manual should verify and update the information, opinions and recommendations independently. **NOTHING CONTAINED IN THE MANUAL IS, OR SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, OR USED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL ADVICE, DIAGNOSIS OR TREATMENT.** The Department of Mental Health does not endorse, approve, recommend or certify any information, medication, method of treatment, or company presented or mentioned in the Manual. The Manual is not intended to replace, and does not replace, the specialized training and professional judgment of a licensed health care or mental health care professional. Individuals should seek the advice of a physician or other health care provider with any questions regarding medications, personal health or medical conditions.

The information, opinions and recommendations provided in the Manual are provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, expressed or implied. DMH makes no warranty, representation or guarantee as to the reliability, accuracy, timeliness, usefulness or completeness of the Manual. DMH hereby expressly disclaims any and all liability or responsibility for any direct, indirect, incidental, special, consequential or other damages arising out of any individual's access to, use of, or inability to use the Manual. All access to the Manual is considered voluntary and at the sole risk of the user.

Department of Mental Health Medication Information

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface

Disclaimer

I.	Antianxiety/Sleep Medication	7
	<u>Benzodiazepines:</u>	
	Alprazolam	Xanax®..... 8
	Chlordiazepoxide	Librium®..... 8
	Clonazepam	Klonopin®..... 8
	Clorazepate Dipotassium	Tranxene®..... 8
	Diazepam	Valium®..... 8
	Lorazepam	Ativan®..... 8
	<u>Other:</u>	
	Buspirone	Buspar®..... 10
	Zaleplon	Sonata®..... 12
	Zolpidem	Ambien®..... 12
II.	Antidepressant Medications	14
	<u>Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors-MAOIs:</u>	
	Phenelzine	Nardil®..... 15
	Tranylcypromine	Parnate®..... 15
	<u>Serotonin Re-Uptake Inhibitors (SSRIs):</u>	
	Citalopram	Celexa®..... 18
	Escitalopram	Lexapro®..... 18
	Fluoxetine	Prozac®..... 18
	Fluvoxamine	Luvox®..... 18
	Paroxetine	Paxil®..... 18
	Sertraline	Zoloft®..... 18
	<u>TriCyclic Antidepressants (TCAs):</u>	
	Amitriptyline	Elavil®..... 21
	Amoxapine	Ascendin®..... 21
	Clomipramine	Anafranil®..... 21
	Desipramine	Norpramin®..... 21
	Doxepin	Sinequan®..... 21
	Imipramine	Tofranil®..... 21
	Nortriptyline	Pamelor®..... 21
	Protriptyline	Vivactil®..... 21
	Trimipramine	Surmontil®..... 21
	<u>Other:</u>	
	Bupropion	Wellbutrin®..... 24
	Mirtazapine	Remeron®..... 27
	Nefazodone	Serzone®..... 29
	Trazodone	Desyrel®..... 31
	Venlafaxine	Effexor®..... 33

III. Antipsychotic Medications.....35

Antipsychotics (Older agents):

Chlorpromazine	Thorazine®.....	36
Fluphenazine	Prolixin®.....	36
	Prolixin Decanoate®.....	36
Haloperidol	Haldol®.....	36
	Haldol Decanoate®.....	36
Loxapine	Loxitane®.....	36
Molindone	Moban®.....	36
Perphenazine	Trilafon®.....	36
Thiothixene	Navane®.....	36
Trifluoperazine	Stelazine®.....	36
Mesoridazine	Serentil®.....	39
Thioridazine	Mellaril®.....	39

Antipsychotics (Newer agents):

Aripiprazole	Abilify®.....	42
Clozapine	Clozaril®.....	45
Olanzapine	Zyprexa®.....	48
Olanzapine Injection	Zyprexa Injection®.....	48
Quetiapine	Seroquel®.....	51
Risperidone	Risperdal®.....	54
Risperidone Injection	Risperdal Consta®.....	54
Ziprasidone	Geodon®.....	57

IV. Mood Stabilization Medications.....60

Carbamazepine	Carbatrol®, Tegretol®.....	61
Gabapentin	Neurontin®.....	63
Lamotrigine	Lamictal®.....	65
Lithium	Eskalith®, Lithobid®.....	67
	Lithonate®, Lithotabs®.....	67
Olanzapine/fluoxetine	Symbyax®.....	69
Oxcarbazepine	Trileptal®.....	72
Topiramate	Topamax®.....	74
Valproate, Valproic Acid, Divalproex Sodium	Depakote®, Depakene®...	76
Verapamil	Calan®.....	79

Department of Mental Health Medication Information

Table of Contents (con't)

V.	Stimulant Medications: Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders.....	81
	<u>Psychostimulants:</u>	
	Dextroamphetamine	Dexedrine®, Adderall®..... 82
	Methylphenidate derivatives	Concerta®, Metadate®..... 82
		Ritalin®
	Pemoline	Cylert®..... 82
	Pemoline/Cylert Consent Form.....	84
	<u>Other:</u>	
	Atomoxetine	Strattera®..... 86
VI.	Other Psychoactive or Adjunctive Medications.....	88
	Amantadine	Symmetrel®..... 89
	<u>Anticholinergics:</u>	
	Benztropine	Cogentin®..... 91
	Trihexyphenidyl	Artane®..... 91
	<u>Beta-Blockers:</u>	
	Atenolol	Tenormin®..... 93
	Metoprolol	Lopressor®..... 93
	Nadolol	Corgard®..... 93
	Propranolol	Inderal®..... 93
	<u>Other:</u>	
	Clonidine	Catapres®..... 96
	Diphenhydramine	Benadryl®..... 98
	Disulfiram	Antabuse®..... 100
	Naltrexone	Trexan®..... 103
	Thyroid Medications	Levoxyl®, Synthroid®..... 105
VII.	Changes and/or Medications Added after Publication Date.....	107
VIII.	Glossary and Index.....	109
	Glossary.....	110
	Index of Brand Name Medications	112
	Index of Generic Medications.....	113

I. ANTIANXIETY/SLEEP MEDICATIONS

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

The following information is intended to supplement, not substitute for, the expertise and judgment of your physician, pharmacist or other healthcare professional. It should not be construed to indicate that use of the drug is safe, appropriate, or effective for you.

Consult your healthcare professional before using this drug.

Use of the Medication Information Manual is subject to the DISCLAIMER at the beginning of this Manual.

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Benzodiazepines

**alprazolam (also known as Xanax),
chlordiazepoxide (also known as Librium),
clonazepam (also known as Klonopin),
clorazepate dipotassium (also known as Tranxene),
diazepam (also known as Valium),
lorazepam (also known as Ativan).**

Specific medication: _____

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is one of a number of medications that are called anti-anxiety medications. They are used to treat the symptoms that are common with anxiety, such as excessive worry, stress, tension, and nervousness. They are also used to relieve sleeping problems, and side effects from other medications like the antipsychotics. There are other medical uses for this medication, which may include controlling the symptoms of alcohol withdrawal, relief of muscle spasms, or stopping or preventing seizures.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication. Potential abuse and/or addiction risk with use of this medication is possible. If you have a history of drug abuse or drug addiction please inform your physician.

Relatively common:

Drowsiness,* Dizziness, Slow reactions

Less common:

Problems with memory, Slurred speech, Poor concentration, Poor coordination, Muscle weakness, Increased anger or agitation

This medication is considered to be habit forming. Most people will have withdrawal side effects if they stop taking it suddenly. Withdrawal effects may include worsening anxiety, nausea, vomiting, sleep loss, tremors,* low blood pressure, or seizures.*

Benzodiazepines (con't)

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is potential risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to inform your doctor if you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make these side effects worse, and are best to avoid.

If you should choose to stop this medication it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems as mentioned above. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved some of the benzodiazepines for use in young people. Approved ages vary from one medication to another. *Chlordiazepoxide* for 6 years and older, [12 years by injection], *clorazepate* for seizure control, 9 years and older, *diazepam* for non-psychiatric uses, 6 months and older [no specific psychiatric recommendations], *lorazepam* for 12 years and older [18 years by injection], and alprazolam for 18 years and older.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions: _____

Glossary Definitions

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

*Tremors: Shakes

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Buspirone (also known as Buspar)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is used to treat the symptoms that are common with anxiety, such as excessive worry, stress, tension, and nervousness. It is also sometimes used to treat aggression or other psychiatric illnesses that your doctor can explain.

This medication takes time to have an effect. You may notice some of the benefits after several weeks, but the full effects may take longer.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Dizziness, Drowsiness, * Nausea, and Headache

Less common:

Difficulty sleeping, Stomach pain, Diarrhea, Tiredness, Excitement, Weakness, Numbness, Blurred vision, Lightheadedness, Dry mouth

Rare: Allergic Reaction

One or a combination of the following symptoms, itching or rash, swelling in face or hands, swelling or tingling in the mouth or throat, chest tightness and/or trouble breathing. Medical attention should be sought if any of these signs or symptoms appear.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be discussed with your doctor beforehand.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

Buspirone (also known as Buspar) (con't)

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Zaleplon (also known as Sonata) Zolpidem (also known as Ambien)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is used to help people sleep. It is most commonly used as a short-term (up to 10 days) treatment for sleep problems. Occasionally it may be necessary to use this medication for a longer period of time.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication. If you have a history of drug abuse or drug addiction please inform your physician.

Relatively common:

Drowsiness,* dizziness, diarrhea, lightheadedness, difficulty with coordination.

Less common:

Memory problems, confusion, unusual dreams, unusual thoughts or feelings, or changes in behavior.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk and the effect on infants is unknown.

Other risks:

This medication is intended to help you fall asleep. *Zolpidem* usually starts to work fast so you should take it only when you are ready to go to bed. The effects usually clear by the next morning, but some people may still feel sleepy during the day. This of course could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Zolpidem (also known as Ambien) & Zaleplon (also known as Sonata) (con't)

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people less than 18 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

II. ANTIDEPRESSANT MEDICATIONS

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

The following information is intended to supplement, not substitute for, the expertise and judgment of your physician, pharmacist or other healthcare professional. It should not be construed to indicate that use of the drug is safe, appropriate, or effective for you.

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MAOI (Monoamine oxidase inhibitor) Antidepressants **phenelzine (also known as Nardil)** **tranylcypromine (also known as Parnate)**

Specific Medication: _____

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication one of a number of medications called antidepressants. It is most often used to relieve symptoms of depression such as seeing only the worst side of things, feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, worthlessness, sadness, fatigue or loss of your normal energy, loss of interest, changes in sleep, changes in appetite or eating habits, difficulty making decisions, decreased alertness or ability to concentrate, irritability, excessive worry or guilt, and thoughts of harming oneself. This medication may also help prevent the symptoms of depression from returning once they are gone. This medication may also be used to reduce anxiety, panic attacks, or unreasonable fears (phobias).

You should understand that all antidepressant medications take some amount of time to work, usually several weeks or more.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Sedation, Drowsiness,* Dizziness or lightheadedness (especially when getting up suddenly from a lying or sitting position), Low blood pressure, Constipation, Dry mouth, Blurry vision, Weight gain, Upset stomach, Difficulty passing urine, Unusually fast or uneven heartbeat, Changes in sexual drive and function such as inability to reach orgasm.

Less common:

Confusion, Seizures,* Sweating, Liver problems, High blood pressure reactions (explained below), Chest pain, Headache, Rash, Worsening of glaucoma* (if this were to happen you would get severe eye pain, and you would need medical help)

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you.

MAOI (Mono-amine oxidase inhibitor) Antidepressants (con't)

If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs with this medication must be completely avoided. **The use of alcohol in certain forms while on this medication can cause a serious reaction that causes dangerously high blood pressure. This is also true for certain foods and medications, especially antidepressants such as fluoxetine (Prozac).** Your doctor can provide you with a list of foods and medications to avoid in order to prevent this reaction. You will have to check with your doctor before taking any other medicines, whether they are prescribed or can be bought without a prescription. You must also continue to avoid these problem foods and medicines for two weeks after you stop this medication in order to avoid this reaction. The signs that this reaction is occurring include: severe headache, neck stiffness, flushed skin, vomiting, confusion, and fainting. **You should seek emergency medical assistance immediately if these signs occur.** If the reaction just described above occurs you should stop your medication until your doctor can advise you.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

When used to treat depression in people that have a bipolar illness (manic depressive illness) all antidepressant medications have a risk of causing a manic episode.

Children and adolescents:

Phenelzine has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in people 16 years and older. *Tranylcypromine* is only approved for use in adults.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

MAOI (Mono-amine oxidase inhibitor) Antidepressants (con't)

Some Foods to avoid while taking an MAOIs

Pickled or smoked food including fish, salami, pepperoni. Aged cheeses (not cottage or cream cheese), yogurt, beer and wine, fava beans, excessive chocolate or caffeine.

Glossary Definitions

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

*Glaucoma: A group of disorders characterized by progressive damage to the eye, at least partly due to changes in eye pressure.

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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SSRI (Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitors) Antidepressants

citalopram (also known as Celexa)
escitalopram (also known as Lexapro)
fluoxetine (also known as Prozac)
fluvoxamine (also known as Luvox).
paroxetine (also known as Paxil)
sertraline (also known as Zoloft)

Specific Medication: _____

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is one of a number of medications called antidepressants. It is most often used to relieve symptoms of depression such as seeing only the worst side of things, feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, worthlessness, sadness, fatigue or loss of your normal energy, loss of interest, changes in sleep, changes in appetite or eating habits, difficulty making decisions, decreased alertness or ability to concentrate, irritability, excessive worry or guilt, and thoughts of harming oneself. This medication may also help prevent the symptoms of depression from returning once they are gone.

This medication may also be used to treat some forms of anxiety such as obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic attacks, or unreasonable fears (phobias).

You should understand that all antidepressant medications take some amount of time to work, usually several weeks or more.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Trouble sleeping, Anxiety, Nervousness or restlessness, Nausea, Decreased appetite or weight loss, Potential weight gain, Decreased sexual arousal or decreased ability to have an orgasm or ejaculation, Headache, Diarrhea, Drowsiness, * Unusual dreams

Less common:

Tiredness, Dizziness, Constipation, Decreased concentration, Fast or uneven heartbeat, Dry mouth, Stuffy nose, Vomiting, Tremor, * Twitching muscles, Sweating, Seizures*

SSRI (Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitors) Antidepressants (con't)

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known.

If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should also be discussed with your doctor because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation, could make it dangerous to drive a car or operate machinery. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

When used to treat depression in people that have a bipolar illness (manic depressive illness) all antidepressant medications have a risk of causing a manic episode.

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved most of these medications for use in children. *Sertraline* is approved for patients 6-17 for the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder. Fluoxetine has been used in patients over age 7 for the treatment of depression.

Regarding paroxetine, citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine, fluvoxamine and sertraline, some reports suggest an increased risk of suicidal behavior in children and adolescents. The FDA advises that patients taking these medications be closely monitored by their doctors, especially at the beginning of treatment and with each increase in dose. The FDA also urges that existing treatment not be interrupted or stopped without talking with a doctor.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

SSRI (Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitors) Antidepressants (con't)

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

*Tremors: Shakes

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

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TriCyclic Antidepressants

amitriptyline (also known as Elavil)
amoxapine (also known as Ascendin)
clomipramine (also known as Anafranil)
desipramine (also known as Norpramin)
doxepin (also known as Sinequan)
imipramine (also known as Tofranil)
nortriptyline (also known as Pamelor)
protriptyline (also known as Vivactil)
trimipramine (also known as Surmontil).

Specific Medication: _____

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is one of a number of medications called antidepressants. It is most often used to relieve symptoms of depression such as seeing only the worst side of things, feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, worthlessness, sadness, fatigue or loss of your normal energy, loss of interest, changes in sleep, changes in appetite or eating habits, difficulty making decisions, decreased alertness or ability to concentrate, irritability, excessive worry or guilt, and thoughts of harming oneself. This medication may also help prevent the symptoms of depression from returning once they are gone.

You should understand that all antidepressant medications take some amount of time to work, usually several weeks or more.

This medication may also be used to reduce anxiety, panic attacks, or unreasonable fears (phobias) or obsessions.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Drowsiness,* Dizziness or lightheadedness (especially when getting up suddenly from a lying or sitting position), Low blood pressure, Constipation, Dry mouth, Blurry vision, Weight gain, Upset stomach

Less common:

Confusion, Difficulty passing urine, Unusually fast or uneven heartbeat, Decreases in sexual drive or function

TriCyclic Antidepressants (con't)

Rare:

Seizures,* Liver problems, Worsening of glaucoma* (if this were to happen you would get severe eye pain, and you would need medical help)

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known.

If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should also be discussed with your doctor because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

When used to treat depression in people that have a bipolar illness (manic depressive illness) all antidepressant medications have a risk of causing a manic episode.

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved these medications for use in people younger than 18 years old, although some of these medications have been used in children. *Amitriptyline*, *desipramine*, *imipramine*, and *nortriptyline* have been used in children over the age of 6 years for major depressive illness. *Desipramine*, *imipramine*, and *protriptyline* have been used to treat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in some children aged 6 and older. *Clomipramine* is used for the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder in children age 10 and older. In this age group there have been rare instances of sudden death that appears related to these medications. Your prescriber may ask to test your heart function (EKG) prior to starting medication and routinely thereafter.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

TriCyclic Antidepressants (con't)

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

*Glaucoma: A group of disorders characterized by progressive damage to the eye, at least partly due to changes in eye pressure.

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Consult your healthcare professional before using this drug.

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Please read the DISCLAIMER carefully before using the Manual.

Bupropion (also known as Wellbutrin)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is one of a number of medications called antidepressants. It is most often used to relieve symptoms of depression, such as seeing only the worst side of things, feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, worthlessness, sadness, fatigue or loss of your normal energy, loss of interest, changes in sleep, changes in appetite or eating habits, difficulty making decisions, decreased alertness or ability to concentrate, irritability, excessive worry or guilt, and thoughts of harming oneself. This medication may also help prevent the symptoms of depression from returning once they are gone. You should understand that all antidepressant medications take some amount of time to work, usually several weeks (4-6 weeks) or more.

This medication is also sometimes used to help people stop smoking. Please inform your health care team if you are receiving *Zyban* (bupropion), which is the same active ingredient as *Wellbutrin*.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Dry mouth, Problems with sleep, Restlessness, Anxiety, Weight loss, Decreased appetite, Nausea, Dizziness

Less common:

Confusion, Muscle spasms, Agitation, Upset stomach, Rash, Hallucinations
Seizures*: The chance of having a seizure is quite low, but still somewhat higher with this medication than with other antidepressants. The chances increase as the dosage goes up, but it is considered safe up to a total daily dose of 450 mg (400 mg for *Wellbutrin SR*). If you are taking the regular tablet form (*Wellbutrin*), each separate time you take this medication the amount should be as directed, but not more than 150 mg. It is important to take each dose at least six hours apart, and not to take two doses together to avoid the potential risk of a seizure. If you are taking the sustained release form (*Wellbutrin SR*), each separate time you take this medication the amount should be as directed, but not more than 200 mg. You should take each dose as close to 12 hours apart as possible.

If you have an active seizure disorder or an eating disorder, your risk of seizures may be even greater and this may not be a good choice for you. Please inform your healthcare team if this applies to you.

Bupropion (also known as Wellbutrin) (con't)

Allergic Reaction

One or a combination of the following symptoms, itching or rash, swelling in face or hands, swelling or tingling in the mouth or throat, chest tightness and/or trouble breathing. Medical attention should be sought if any of these signs or symptoms appear.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should also be discussed with your doctor because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided. When used to treat depression in people that have a bipolar illness (manic depressive illness) all antidepressant medications have a risk of causing a manic episode.

If you should choose to stop this medication it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Some reports suggest an increased risk of suicidal behavior in children and adolescents. The FDA advises that patients taking these medications be closely monitored by their doctors, especially at the beginning of treatment and with each increase in dose. The FDA also urges that existing treatment not be interrupted or stopped without talking with a doctor.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Bupropion (also known as Wellbutrin) (con't)

Special Instructions: _____

Glossary Definitions

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Please read the DISCLAIMER carefully before using the Manual.*

Mirtazapine (also known as Remeron)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is one of a number of medications called antidepressants. It is most often used to relieve symptoms of depression, such as seeing only the worst side of things, feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, worthlessness, sadness, fatigue or loss of your normal energy, loss of interest, changes in sleep, changes in appetite or eating habits, difficulty making decisions, decreased alertness or ability to concentrate, irritability, excessive worry or guilt, and thoughts of harming oneself. This medication may also help prevent the symptoms of depression from returning once they are gone.

You should understand that all antidepressant medications take some amount of time to work, usually several weeks or more.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Sedation, Drowsiness,* Increased appetite and weight gain, Dizziness or lightheadedness (especially when getting up suddenly from a lying or sitting position), Dry mouth, Blurry vision, Upset stomach

Less common:

Confusion, Fast or uneven heartbeat, Changes in sexual drive or function, Liver test problems, Headache, Low blood pressure

Rare:

Low white blood cell count, seizures*

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should also be avoided until more information is known about its effects.

Mirtazapine (also known as Remeron) (con't)

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

When used to treat depression in people that have a bipolar illness (manic depressive illness) all antidepressant medications have a risk of causing a manic episode.

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in children.

Some reports suggest an increased risk of suicidal behavior in children and adolescents. The FDA advises that patients taking these medications be closely monitored by their doctors, especially at the beginning of treatment and with each increase in dose. The FDA also urges that existing treatment not be interrupted or stopped without talking with a doctor.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

The following information is intended to supplement, not substitute for, the expertise and judgment of your physician, pharmacist or other healthcare professional. It should not be construed to indicate that use of the drug is safe, appropriate, or effective for you.

Consult your healthcare professional before using this drug.

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Nefazodone (also known as Serzone)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is one of a number of medications called antidepressants. It is most often used to relieve symptoms of depression such as seeing only the worst side of things, feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, worthlessness, sadness, fatigue or loss of your normal energy, loss of interest, changes in sleep, changes in appetite or eating habits, difficulty making decisions, decreased alertness or ability to concentrate, irritability, excessive worry or guilt, and thoughts of harming oneself. This medication may also help prevent the symptoms of depression from returning once they are gone.

You should understand that all antidepressant medications take some amount of time to work, usually several weeks or more.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

**** Though rare, cases of life-threatening liver failure have been reported in patients treated with Serzone (nefazodone). Please inform your healthcare team immediately if you develop weakness, dark colored urine, or jaundice (yellow-looking skin).**

Relatively common:

Drowsiness, * Nausea, Constipation, Dry mouth.

Less common:

Confusion, Agitation, Blurry vision, Unusual dreams, Weight loss, Decreased concentration, Fast, slow or uneven heartbeat, Vomiting, Tremor, * Dizziness or lightheadedness (especially when getting up suddenly from a lying or sitting position), Low blood pressure, Sweating, Headache, Diarrhea, Trouble sleeping, Nervousness

Allergic Reaction:

One or a combination of the following symptoms: itching or rash, swelling in face or hands, swelling or tingling in the mouth or throat, chest tightness and/or trouble breathing. Medical attention should be sought if any of these signs or symptoms appear.

Nefazodone (also known as Serzone) (con't)

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you.

If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should also be discussed with your doctor because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

When used to treat depression in people that have a bipolar illness (manic depressive illness) all antidepressant medications have a risk of causing a manic episode.

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Some reports suggest an increased risk of suicidal behavior in children and adolescents. The FDA advises that patients taking these medications be closely monitored by their doctors, especially at the beginning of treatment and with each increase in dose. The FDA also urges that existing treatment not be interrupted or stopped without talking with a doctor.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

*Tremor: Shakes

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Trazodone (also known as Desyrel)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication one of a number of medications called antidepressants. It is most often used to relieve symptoms of depression, such as seeing only the worst side of things, feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, worthlessness, sadness, fatigue or loss of your normal energy, loss of interest, changes in sleep, changes in appetite or eating habits, difficulty making decisions, decreased alertness or ability to concentrate, irritability, excessive worry or guilt, and thoughts of harming oneself. This medication may also help prevent the symptoms of depression from returning once they are gone.

You should understand that all antidepressant medications take some amount of time to work, usually several weeks or more.

This medication is also commonly used to help people sleep.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Drowsiness*

Less common:

Tiredness, Weakness, Confusion, Agitation, Constipation, Dry mouth, Blurry vision, Unusual dreams, Weight loss, Decreased concentration, Fast, slow or uneven heartbeat, Stuffy nose, Nausea, Vomiting, Tremor, * Sweating, Headache, Diarrhea, Trouble sleeping, Nervousness, Dizziness or lightheadedness (especially when getting up suddenly from a lying or sitting position), Low blood pressure.

Priapism (a prolonged, painful erection of the penis) is a rare side effect of *trazodone*. It can be a serious side effect and requires immediate medical attention.

Allergic Reaction

One or a combination of the following symptoms, itching or rash, swelling in face or hands, swelling or tingling in the mouth or throat, chest tightness and/or trouble breathing. Medical attention should be sought if any of these signs or symptoms appear.

Trazodone (also known as Desyrel) (con't)

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you.

If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should also be discussed with your doctor because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

When used to treat depression in people that have a bipolar illness (manic depressive illness) all antidepressant medications have a risk of causing a manic episode.

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

*Tremor: Shakes

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Consult your healthcare professional before using this drug.

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Please read the DISCLAIMER carefully before using the Manual.

Venlafaxine (also known as Effexor)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is one of a number of medications called antidepressants. It is most often used to relieve symptoms of depression such as seeing only the worst side of things, feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, worthlessness, sadness, fatigue or loss of your normal energy, loss of interest, changes in sleep, changes in appetite or eating habits, difficulty making decisions, decreased alertness or ability to concentrate, irritability, excessive worry or guilt, and thoughts of harming oneself. This medication may also help prevent the symptoms of depression from returning once they are gone.

You should understand that all antidepressant medications take some amount of time to work, usually several weeks or more.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Trouble sleeping, Headache, Anxiety, Nervousness or restlessness, Increase in blood pressure, Nausea, Diarrhea, Drowsiness, * Decreased appetite or weight loss, Decreased sexual drive or ability, Sweating

Less common:

Tiredness, Dizziness, Unusual dreams, Constipation, Decreased concentration, Fast or uneven heartbeat, Dry mouth, Blurry vision, Vomiting, Tremor, * Seizures*

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you.

If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should also be discussed with your doctor because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation, could make it dangerous to drive a car or operate machinery. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

Venlafaxine (also known as Effexor) (con't)

If you should choose to stop this medication it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

When used to treat depression in people that have a bipolar illness (manic depressive illness) all antidepressant medications have a risk of causing a manic episode.

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Some reports suggest an increased risk of suicidal behavior in children and adolescents. The FDA advises that patients taking these medications be closely monitored by their doctors, especially at the beginning of treatment and with each increase in dose. The FDA also urges that existing treatment not be interrupted or stopped without talking with a doctor.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Please inform your physician if you are being treated for high blood pressure (hypertension)_____

Glossary Definitions

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

*Tremors: Shakes

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

III. ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATIONS

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

The following information is intended to supplement, not substitute for, the expertise and judgment of your physician, pharmacist or other healthcare professional. It should not be construed to indicate that use of the drug is safe, appropriate, or effective for you.

Consult your healthcare professional before using this drug.

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Antipsychotic Medications (older agents)

chlorpromazine (also known as Thorazine)
fluphenazine (also known as Prolixin or Prolixin Decanoate [injectable form of fluphenazine])
haloperidol (also known as Haldol or Haldol Decanoate [injectable form of haloperidol])
loxapine (also known as Loxitane)
mesoridazine (also known as Serentil)
molindone (also known as Moban)
perphenazine (also known as Trilafon)
thioridazine (also known as Mellaril)
thiothixene (also known as Navane)
trifluoperazine (also known as Stelazine) .

Specific Medication: _____

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is called an antipsychotic medication. It has been shown to be helpful in relieving some of the problems that occur in serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder. These problems may include hallucinations (seeing, feeling, or hearing things when no one is there) or delusions (a fixed belief of something that may not be true). This medicine may also help you to think more clearly so that the things you say are easier for others to understand. It may also help relieve you of feeling suspicious or paranoid, and having beliefs that others find very unlikely or impossible to understand. Racing thoughts, manic behavior, problems with concentration, and excessive anger may also be relieved. These symptoms are referred to as “positive” symptoms. This medication may also help with another group of problems that include a lack of motivation to do things that you enjoy, trouble being together with other people, and a lack of interest to participate in programs, school, or work opportunities. These symptoms are referred to as “negative” symptoms.

Haloperidol Decanoate Injection: This medication is injected into a muscle (IM). This medication is the long-acting form of haloperidol and is usually administered once every 4 weeks. This medication must be used as prescribed. Do not stop using this drug suddenly without consulting your doctor. Skin irritation, redness, swelling and pain at the injection site may occur.

Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection: This medication is injected into a muscle (IM) or under the skin (SC). This medication must be used as prescribed, every 1-4 weeks as needed or tolerated. Do not stop using this drug suddenly without consulting your doctor. Some conditions may worsen if the medication is suddenly stopped. It may

Antipsychotic Medications (older agents) (con't)

take up to two weeks for the full benefit of this drug to take effect. Skin irritation, redness, swelling and pain at the injection site may occur.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Sedation, Muscle stiffness, Tremors,* Slowed muscle movements, Muscle spasms, Restlessness, Dizziness, Constipation, Dry mouth, Blurry vision, Weight gain, Upset stomach, Body heat regulation problems

Some patients taking these medications may experience trouble staying cool in hot weather. This can be dangerous during heat waves or excessive physical activity. Be sure to drink plenty of fluids, such as water, and stay in cooler areas.

Less common:

Stuffy nose, Difficulty passing urine, Low blood pressure, Unusually fast or uneven heartbeat, Impotence,* Breast enlargement, Loss of menstrual cycle, Sensitivity to the sun, Difficulty swallowing, Seizures*

Tardive dyskinesia:

This side effect can happen to people who take an antipsychotic medication for a long time. Usually, it does not appear until after 6 months or more of treatment. It involves uncontrollable and abnormal muscle movements. Often these movements are in your tongue, mouth and face, but they can happen in other parts of your body, like your arms or legs, or even rarely in the muscles that help you breath. You may not notice these movements, although others around you may notice them. You should also understand that these movements might not go away even if the medication is stopped. The risk for this side effect increases the longer you are treated with an antipsychotic medication and the older you are.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome:

This is a rare problem that can happen with any antipsychotic medication. People that get this side effect have a change in the way they act, a fever, muscle stiffness, and changes in their blood pressure and heart rate. Although it is rare and most people recover completely, some people have died from this problem. If you develop these symptoms, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Antipsychotic Medications (older agents)

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved some of the antipsychotic medications for use in people younger than 18 years old. *Chlorpromazine* is approved for 6 months and older (the manufacturer recommends that the medication generally not be used in these children unless the condition to be treated is potentially life-threatening), *haloperidol* for 3 years and older (except for *haloperidol decanoate*, an injectable form used with adults), *trifluoperazine* for 6 years and older, *fluphenazine* for 12 years and older, *molindone* for 12 years and older, *thiothixene* for 12 years and older, and *loxapine* for 16 years and older.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Tremors: Shakes

*Impotence: Also called erectile dysfunction, is the inability to initiate or maintain an erection.

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Consult your healthcare professional before using this drug.

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Please read the DISCLAIMER carefully before using the Manual.

Mesoridazine (also known as Serentil) Thioridazine (also known as Mellaril)

Specific Medication: _____

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is called an antipsychotic medication. It has been shown to be helpful in relieving some of the problems that occur in serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder. These problems may include hallucinations (seeing, feeling, or hearing things when no one is there) or delusions (a fixed belief of something that may not be true). This medicine may also help you to think more clearly, relieve you of feeling suspicious or paranoid, and having beliefs that others find very unlikely or impossible to understand. Racing thoughts, manic behavior, problems with concentration, and excessive anger may also be relieved. These symptoms are referred to as "positive" symptoms. This medication may also help with another group of problems that include a lack of motivation to do things that you enjoy, trouble being together with other people, and a lack of interest to participate in programs, school, or work opportunities. These symptoms are referred to as "negative" symptoms.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

- ***Thioridazine* and *mesoridazine* are indicated for patients with schizophrenia, who either cannot tolerate other antipsychotic drugs or who fails to respond to them. Your physician may ask for an ECG (heart monitor test) to ensure proper heart function.**

Relatively common:

Sedation, Muscle stiffness, Tremors,* Slowed muscle movements, Muscle spasms, Restlessness, Dizziness, Constipation, Dry mouth, Blurry vision, Weight gain, Upset stomach

Less common:

Stuffy nose, Difficulty passing urine, Low blood pressure, Unusually fast or uneven heartbeat, Impotence,* Breast enlargement, Loss of menstrual cycle, Sensitivity to the sun, Difficulty swallowing, Seizures*

Antipsychotic Medications (con't)

Tardive dyskinesia:

This side effect can happen to people that take this kind of antipsychotic medication for a long time. Usually it does not appear until after 6 months or more of treatment. It involves uncontrollable and abnormal muscle movements. Often these movements are in your tongue, mouth and face, but they can happen in other parts of your body like your arms or legs, or even rarely in the muscles that help you breathe. You may not notice these movements, although others around you may notice them. You should also understand that these movements may not go away even if the medication is stopped. The risk for this side effect increases the longer you are treated with an antipsychotic and the older you are.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome:

This is a rare problem that can happen with any antipsychotic medication. People that get this side effect have a change in the way they act, a fever, muscle stiffness, and changes in their blood pressure and heart rate. Although it is rare and most people recover completely, some people have died from this problem. If you develop these symptoms, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved some of the antipsychotic medications for use in people younger than 18 years old. *Thioridazine* is approved for 2 years and older and *mesoridazine* for 12 years and older.

If you are receiving propranolol (Inderal), fluvoxamine (Luvox) or fluoxetine (Prozac), please check with your physician.

Antipsychotic Medications (con't)

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

***Tremors:** Shakes

***Impotence:** Also called erectile dysfunction, is the inability to initiate or maintain an erection.

***Seizures:** Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Aripiprazole (also known as Abilify)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

Aripiprazole is an antipsychotic medication. It has been shown to be helpful in relieving some of the problems that occur in serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder. These problems may include hallucinations (seeing, feeling, or hearing things when no one is there) or delusions (a fixed belief of something that may not be true). This medicine may also help you to think more clearly so that the things you say are easier for others to understand. It may also help relieve you of feeling suspicious or paranoid, and having beliefs that others find very unlikely or impossible to understand. Racing thoughts, manic behavior, problems with concentration, and excessive anger may also be relieved. These symptoms are referred to as “positive” symptoms. This medication may also help with another group of problems that include a lack of motivation to do things that you enjoy, trouble being together with other people, and a lack of interest to participate in programs, school, or work opportunities. These symptoms are referred to as “negative” symptoms.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Constipation, Headache, Nausea, Vomiting, Nervousness, Rash, Sleepiness, Weight gain, Lightheadedness, Sleeplessness, Restlessness, Need to keep moving

Weight gain: may occur on this medication and can be preventable in many cases if the right support and strategies are in place. The cause of weight gain is unknown but may be involved with appetite control such as not feeling full, leading to more eating. People who gain weight are at risk of developing diabetes (see below) or having problems with fats in their blood that can contribute to heart disease. Talk with your treatment team about how to prevent weight gain.

Diabetes: (trouble with sugar control) may be more of a risk for people who take this medication. Your ethnic background, family history and medical history may also affect your risk of developing diabetes. Please be sure to discuss these risks with your healthcare provider.

Less common:

Convulsions, Difficulty breathing, Fast heartbeat, High fever, High or low blood pressure, Increased sweating, Muscle spasm, Muscle stiffness, Sudden loss of consciousness, Unusually pale skin

Tardive dyskinesia:

This side effect can happen to people that take this kind of antipsychotic medication, for a long time. Usually, it does not appear until after 6 months or more of treatment. It involves uncontrollable and abnormal muscle movements. These movements may not go away even if the medication is stopped.

The risk for developing tardive dyskinesia is substantially less with this medication as compared to older antipsychotics. If you have more questions about this side effect, speak with your healthcare provider.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome:

This is a rare problem that can happen with any antipsychotic medication. People that get this side effect have a change in the way they act, a fever, muscle stiffness, and changes in their blood pressure and heart rate. Although it is rare and most people recover completely, some people have died from this problem. If you develop these symptoms, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

You may get overheated more easily while you are using this medicine. Be careful if you exercise heavily or are in high heat or humidity. Drink plenty of water every day.

If you should choose to stop this medication it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Aripiprazole (also known as Abilify) (con't)

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions: _____

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Clozapine (also known as Clozaril)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

Clozapine is an antipsychotic medication. It has been shown to be helpful in relieving some of the problems that occur in serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder. These problems may include hallucinations (seeing, feeling, or hearing things when no one is there) or delusions (a fixed belief of something that may not be true). This medicine may also help you to think more clearly so that the things you say are easier for others to understand. It may also help relieve you of feeling suspicious or paranoid, and having beliefs that others find very unlikely or impossible to understand. Racing thoughts, manic behavior, problems with concentration, and excessive anger may also be relieved. These symptoms are referred to as “positive” symptoms. This medication may also help with another group of problems that include a lack of motivation to do things that you enjoy, trouble being together with other people, and a lack of interest to participate in programs, school, or work opportunities. These symptoms are referred to as “negative” symptoms.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Weight gain, Sedation, Drooling or increased salivation, Increases in blood fats, Fast heart beat, Dizziness, Low blood pressure, Nausea, Constipation, Blurry vision, Restlessness, Liver test problems, Blood sugar problems, Seizures*

Less common:

Dry mouth, Night-time loss of bladder control, Problems with swallowing or choking, Changes in heart rhythm, Muscle twitching, Fever, Heart membrane inflammation, Blood clots, particularly in the legs

Low white blood cell count:

This means a drop in the number of infection-fighting cells in your blood. It happens to about 1 in 100 people (1%) treated with *clozapine*, and most often in the first six months of treatment. This can be very serious, and possibly fatal, especially if it is not found quickly. In most cases, once this side effect is found and *clozapine* is stopped, the white blood cells return to normal levels. **In order to check for this problem you will be required to have a blood test every week for at least the first six months of treatment and at least every two weeks for as long as you are on *clozapine*.** You should also know that a sore throat, a fever, or flu symptoms could be a signal of this

Clozapine (also known as Clozaril) (con't)

problem, and you need to tell your doctor. If this problem happens, you would not be able to take *clozapine* again.

Weight gain may occur on this medication and can be preventable in many cases if the right support and strategies are in place. The cause of weight gain is unknown but may be involved with appetite control, such as not feeling full, leading to more eating. People who gain weight are at risk of developing diabetes (see below) or having problems with fats in their blood that can contribute to heart disease. Talk with your treatment team about how to prevent weight gain.

Diabetes (trouble with sugar control) may be more of a risk for people who take this medication. Symptoms of extreme thirst, frequent urination, excess hunger, and weakness should be reported to your doctor. Your ethnic background, family history and medical history may also affect your risk of developing diabetes. Please be sure to discuss these risks with your healthcare provider.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome:

This side effect can happen to people that take this kind of medication, an antipsychotic, for a long time. Usually it does not appear until after 6 months or more of treatment. It involves uncontrollable and abnormal muscle movements. These movements may not go away even if the medication is stopped.

Tardive dyskinesia:

This side effect can happen to people that take this kind of antipsychotic medication, for a long time. Usually, it does not appear until after 6 months or more of treatment. It involves muscle movements that are not normal and that you are not able to control. These movements may not go away even if the medication is stopped.

The risk for developing tardive dyskinesia is substantially less with this medication as compared to older antipsychotics. If you have more questions about this side effect, speak with your healthcare provider.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not well known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Clozapine (also known as Clozaril) (con't)

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

If you develop flu-like symptoms, tightness in the chest, and/or difficulty breathing, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

If you develop leg pain, it may be a sign of a problem with blood clotting which is potentially serious. Contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Glossary Definitions

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Olanzapine (also called Zyprexa)

Olanzapine Injectable (also called Zyprexa Injectable)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

Olanzapine is an antipsychotic and a mood stabilizing medication. It has been shown to be helpful in relieving some of the problems that occur in serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder. These problems may include hallucinations (seeing, feeling, or hearing things when no one is there) or delusions (a fixed belief of something that may not be true). This medicine may also help you to think more clearly so that the things you say are easier for others to understand. It may also help relieve you of feeling suspicious or paranoid, and having beliefs that others find very unlikely or impossible to understand. Racing thoughts, manic behavior, problems with concentration, and excessive anger may also be relieved. These symptoms are referred to as “positive” symptoms. This medication may also help with another group of problems that include a lack of motivation to do things that you enjoy, trouble being together with other people, and a lack of interest to participate in programs, school, or work opportunities. These symptoms are referred to as “negative” symptoms.

The injectable form of this drug is injected into the muscle only. It is used to treat severe agitation. It is recommended that dosing should be every 2-4 hours and not to go beyond 30mg in 24 hours. This drug is short-acting (effects do not last for a very long time) and is meant for short-term control of agitation. Oral *olanzapine* is preferred for maintenance treatment.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Weight gain, Sedation, Agitation, Dizziness, Constipation, Dry mouth, Restlessness, Liver test problems, and Blood sugar problems. Injection site redness, swelling and pain may be experienced with the injectable form of *olanzapine*. Low blood pressure may be a problem in some patients receiving the injectable form of *olanzapine*.

Weight gain may occur on this medication and can be preventable in many cases if the right support and strategies are in place. The cause of weight gain is unknown but may be involved with appetite control, such as not feeling full, leading to more eating. People who gain weight are at risk of developing diabetes (see below) or having problems with fats in their blood that can contribute to heart disease. Talk with your treatment team about how to prevent weight gain.

Olanzapine (also called Zyprexa) (con't)

Olanzapine Injectable (also called Zyprexa Injectable) (con't)

Diabetes (trouble with sugar control) may be more of a risk for people who take this medication. Symptoms of extreme thirst, frequent urination, excess hunger, and weakness should be reported to your doctor. Your ethnic background, family history and medical history may also affect your risk of developing diabetes. Please be sure to discuss these risks with your healthcare provider.

Less common:

Seizures,* Difficulty swallowing, Muscle stiffness, Tremors,* Slowed muscle movements, Muscle spasms, Changes in body temperature (too hot or too cold), worsening of glaucoma* (if this were to happen you would get severe eye pain, and you would need medical help)

Tardive dyskinesia:

This side effect can happen to people that take this kind of antipsychotic medication for a long time. Usually it does not appear until after 6 months or more of treatment. It involves uncontrollable and abnormal muscle movements. These movements may not go away even if the medication is stopped.

The risk for developing tardive dyskinesia is substantially less with this medication as compared to older antipsychotics. If you have more questions about this side effect speak with your healthcare provider.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome:

This is a rare problem that can happen with any antipsychotic medication. People that get this side effect have a change in the way they act, a fever, muscle stiffness, and changes in their blood pressure and heart rate. Although it is rare and most people recover completely, some people have died from this problem. If you develop these symptoms contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not well known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Olanzapine (also called Zyprexa) (con't)
Olanzapine Injectable (also called Zyprexa Injectable) (con't)

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

*Glaucoma: A group of disorders characterized by progressive damage to the eye, at least partly due to changes in eye pressure.

*Tremors: Shakes

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Quetiapine (also known as Seroquel)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

Quetiapine is an antipsychotic medication. It has been shown to be helpful in relieving some of the problems that occur in serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder. These problems may include hallucinations (seeing, feeling, or hearing things when no one is there) or delusions (a fixed belief of something that may not be true). This medicine may also help you to think more clearly so that the things you say are easier for others to understand. It may also help relieve you of feeling suspicious or paranoid, and having beliefs that others find very unlikely or impossible to understand. Racing thoughts, manic behavior, problems with concentration, and excessive anger may also be relieved. These symptoms are referred to as “positive” symptoms. This medication may also help with another group of problems that include a lack of motivation to do things that you enjoy, trouble being together with other people, and a lack of interest to participate in programs, school, or work opportunities. These symptoms are referred to as “negative” symptoms.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Dizziness, Low blood pressure when you stand up quickly, Dry mouth, Stomach upset, Sleepiness, Headache, Constipation, Weight gain, Liver test problems (these usually return to normal on their own), Increased blood fat levels

Weight gain may occur on this medication and can be preventable in many cases if the right support and strategies are in place. The cause of weight gain is unknown but may be involved with appetite control, such as not feeling full, leading to more eating. People who gain weight are at risk of developing diabetes (see below) or having problems with fats in their blood that can contribute to heart disease. Talk with your treatment team about how to prevent weight gain.

Diabetes (trouble with sugar control) may be more of a risk for people who take this medication. Your ethnic background, family history and medical history may also affect your risk of developing diabetes. Please be sure to discuss these risks with your healthcare provider.

Less common:

Muscle stiffness, Tremors,* Slowed muscle movements, Muscle spasms, Restlessness, Seizures,* Decreased thyroid levels, Fast heart beat

Quetiapine (also known as Seroquel) (con't)

Cataracts:

A cataract occurs when the lens of your eye becomes cloudy. This can lead to decreased vision and in some cases even blindness. When *quetiapine* was tested in laboratory animals, some of them developed cataracts. Some people that have taken *quetiapine* in long-term studies have also had changes in their eye lenses. It is not yet known how often this side effect will occur with *quetiapine* or how serious it will be, but your doctor may ask you to have an eye exam to check for this problem before starting *quetiapine* and periodically thereafter.

Tardive dyskinesia:

This side effect can happen to people that take this kind of antipsychotic medication for a long time. Usually, it does not appear until after 6 months or more of treatment. It involves uncontrollable and abnormal muscle movements. These movements may not go away even if the medication is stopped.

The risk for developing tardive dyskinesia is substantially less with this medication as compared to older antipsychotics. If you have more questions about this side effect, speak with your healthcare provider.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome:

This is a rare problem that can happen with any antipsychotic medication. People that get this side effect have a change in the way they act, a fever, muscle stiffness, and changes in their blood pressure and heart rate. Although it is rare and most people recover completely, some people have died from this problem. If you develop these symptoms contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Quetiapine (also known as Seroquel) (con't)

Children and adolescents:

The safety and effectiveness of *quetiapine* has not been determined or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for people younger than 18 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Glossary Definitions

***Tremors:** Shakes

***Seizures:** Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

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Risperidone (also called Risperdal)

Risperidone Injection (also called Risperdal Consta)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

Risperidone is an antipsychotic medication. It has been shown to be helpful in relieving some of the problems that occur in serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder. These problems may include hallucinations (seeing, feeling, or hearing things when no one is there) or delusions (a fixed belief of something that may not be true). This medicine may also help you to think more clearly so that the things you say are easier for others to understand. It may also help relieve you of feeling suspicious or paranoid, and having beliefs that others find very unlikely or impossible to understand. Racing thoughts, manic behavior, problems with concentration, and excessive anger may also be relieved. These symptoms are referred to as “positive” symptoms. This medication may also help with another group of problems that include a lack of motivation to do things that you enjoy, trouble being together with other people, and a lack of interest to participate in programs, school, or work opportunities. These symptoms are referred to as “negative” symptoms.

Risperidone Injection is given by intramuscular injection (IM) into the buttock by a healthcare professional once every two weeks. Injections should alternate between the two buttocks. Injected *risperidone* may take up to three weeks to begin working. During this time, you should still take the oral form of this drug or another medication for your condition by mouth. After three weeks, your doctor should have you stop taking the oral form, but follow the directions provided. The dosage is based on your medical condition and response to therapy. Continue to take this medication as directed, even if you are feeling better and thinking more clearly.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Problems with sleeping, Sedation, Agitation, Nervousness or anxiety, Muscle stiffness, Tremors,* and Slowed muscle movements, Muscle spasms, Restlessness, Dizziness

Weight gain may occur on this medication and can be preventable in many cases if the right support and strategies are in place. The cause of weight gain is unknown but may be involved with appetite control, such as not feeling full, leading to more eating. People who gain weight are at risk of developing diabetes (see below) or having problems with fats in their blood that can contribute to heart disease. Talk with your treatment team about how to prevent weight gain.

Risperidone (also called Risperdal) (con't)

Diabetes (trouble with sugar control) may be more of a risk for people who take this medication. Your ethnic background, family history and medical history may also affect your risk of developing diabetes. Please be sure to discuss these risks with your healthcare provider.

Injection- redness, swelling, and pain at the injection site may occur.

Less common:

Stuffy nose, Head ache, Constipation, Dry mouth, Weight gain, Low blood pressure, Impotence,* Decreased sexual arousal or decreased ability to have an orgasm or ejaculation, Breast enlargement, Loss of menstrual cycle, Seizures

Tardive dyskinesia:

This side effect can happen to people that take this kind of antipsychotic medication for a long time. Usually it does not appear until after 6 months or more of treatment. It involves uncontrollable and abnormal muscle movements. These movements may not go away even if the medication is stopped.

The risk for developing tardive dyskinesia is substantially less with this medication as compared to older antipsychotics. If you have more questions about this side effect speak with your healthcare provider.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome:

This is a rare problem that can happen with any antipsychotic medication. People that get this side effect have a change in the way they act, a fever, muscle stiffness, and changes in their blood pressure and heart rate. Although it is rare and most people recover completely, some people have died from this problem. If you develop these symptoms, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not well known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or operate machinery. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Risperidone (also called Risperdal) (con't)

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Glossary Definitions

*Tremors: Shakes

*Impotence: Also called erectile dysfunction, is the inability to initiate or maintain an erection.

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

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Ziprasidone (also known as Geodon)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

Ziprasidone is an antipsychotic medication. It has been shown to be helpful in relieving some of the problems that occur in serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder. These problems may include hallucinations (seeing, feeling, or hearing things when no one is there) or delusions (a fixed belief of something that may not be true). This medicine may also help you to think more clearly so that the things you say are easier for others to understand. It may also help relieve you of feeling suspicious or paranoid, and having beliefs that others find very unlikely or impossible to understand. Racing thoughts, manic behavior, problems with concentration, and excessive anger may also be relieved. These symptoms are referred to as “positive” symptoms. This medication may also help with another group of problems that include a lack of motivation to do things that you enjoy, trouble being together with other people, and a lack of interest to participate in programs, school, or work opportunities. These symptoms are referred to as “negative” symptoms.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Drowsiness,* Fast, slow, irregular or pounding heartbeat, Lightheadedness, Muscle stiffness, Confusion, Diarrhea, Restlessness

Less common:

Weight gain, seizures,* Difficulty swallowing, Changes in body temperature (too hot or too cold), Skin rash

Diabetes (trouble with sugar control) may be more of a risk for people who take this medication. Your ethnic background, family history and medical history may also affect your risk of developing diabetes. Please be sure to discuss these risks with your healthcare provider.

History of stroke or heart problems or low mineral/electrolyte levels in your blood such as magnesium or potassium can result in heart rate changes; therefore your physician may order a simple blood test to monitor these. Your physician may also order an ECG (heart monitor test) to make sure it is normal before you start the medication and periodically thereafter.

Tardive dyskinesia:

This side effect can happen to people that take this kind of antipsychotic medication for a long time. Usually it does not appear until after 6 months or more of treatment. It involves uncontrollable and abnormal muscle movements. Often, these movements occur around the tongue, mouth and face, but they can happen in other parts of your body as well. You may not notice these movements, although others around you may notice them. You should also understand that these movements might not go away even if the medication is stopped. The risk for this side effect increases the longer you are treated with an antipsychotic and the older you are.

The number of people that will get this side effect from *ziprasidone* is relatively low compared to older antipsychotics.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome:

This is a rare problem that can happen with any antipsychotic medication. People that get this side effect have a change in the way they act, high fever, muscle stiffness, and changes in their blood pressure and heart rate. Although it is rare and most people recover completely, it is considered a medical emergency. If you develop these symptoms, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not well known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in the breast milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Ziprasidone (also known as Geodon) (con't)

Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

furosemide (Lasix), spironolactone (Aldactone), hydrochlorothiazide, ketoconazole (Nizoral), propranolol (Inderal) Other(s):

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

IV. MOOD STABILIZATION MEDICATIONS

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Carbamazepine (also known as Tegretol, Carbatrol and others)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is used for a number of different purposes. *Carbamazepine* is commonly used to control certain types of seizures. * *Carbamazepine* has also been used extensively for bipolar disorder. It may be used to stabilize mood swings (changes in mood in any direction between depressed, normal, or manic) in people that have a bipolar illness or schizoaffective disorder. It is sometimes used to treat impulsive behavior, and other mental illnesses.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Dizziness, Drowsiness, * Staggering, Unsteadiness, Clumsiness, Nausea, Stomach Upset, Diarrhea, Liver test problems

Less Common:

Confusion, Skin rash, Blurred or double vision, Rapid back and forth eye movements, Unusual bleeding or bruising, Headache, Uneven heartbeat, Low sodium.

Rarely:

Liver problems, Fever

Allergic Reaction:

One or a combination of the following symptoms, itching or rash, swelling in face or hands, swelling or tingling in the mouth or throat, chest tightness and/or trouble breathing. Medical attention should be sought if any of these signs or symptoms appear.

In order to make sure the level of drug in your body is correct, and to reduce the chances of serious side effects, occasional blood tests will be done while you are taking this medication.

You should also report to your doctor if you develop a fever, sore throat, mouth sores, or notice that you are bruising easily, have tiny purple skin spots, bloody nose, or dark urine. These might be signs of a problem with your blood and further tests may be needed.

Carbamazepine (also known as Tegretol, Carbatrol and others) (con't)

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known, however some birth defects are believed to be associated with its use. Since there is some risk that it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like drowsiness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

This medication has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in the treatment of seizures in people 6 years and older.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Gabapentin (also known as Neurontin)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is commonly used to control certain types of seizures* (convulsions). It may also be used to treat bipolar disorder (mood swings), other psychiatric conditions, and to help relieve certain types of nerve pain. Your doctor can explain these other purposes as they apply to you.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Somnolence, Dizziness, Coordination problems, Tiredness, Jerking movements of the eyes, Tremors*

Less common:

Double or blurred vision, Nervousness, Problems speaking clearly, Memory problems, Weight gain, Stomach upset, Back pain, Swelling of feet or hands, Muscle twitching, Decreased white blood cell count

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will likely be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Gabapentin (also known as Neurontin) (con't)

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in children younger than 3 years old for the treatment of seizures.

Elderly patients and those with kidney problems:

Gabapentin is removed from your body by the kidneys. As people age their kidneys work slower. For this reason, the dose of *gabapentin* is adjusted based on how well your kidneys are functioning. A blood test may be needed to test your kidney function.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

**Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:
Do not take antacids within 1-2 hours (tums, mylanta, etc.)**

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

*Tremors: Shakes

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Lamotrigine (also known as Lamictal)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is commonly used to control certain types of seizures* (convulsions). It has also been used to treat other conditions such as bipolar disorder (mood swings) or schizoaffective disorder. Your doctor can explain these other purposes as they apply to you.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Dizziness, Blurred or double vision, Headache, Nausea, Vomiting, Sedation, Rash*

Less common:

Diarrhea, Stomach upset, Muscle or joint pain, Trouble sleeping, Tremors*, Nasal stuffiness, and for females an Increased chance of vaginal infections

Rash:

Lamotrigine caused a rash in about 1 in every 10 people treated during studies of the medication. Most of these rashes did not cause any apparent harm, but the reaction can be serious.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk and may be harmful to your child.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

Lamotrigine (also known as Lamictal) (con't)

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 17 years old. Its use in younger people has been linked to a much more common occurrence of rash which can be severe and possibly life threatening.

Elderly patients:

Very few patients over 65 years old were treated with this medication in formal studies. Because of this, the safety and effectiveness of *lamotrigine* in this age group is uncertain.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

This medication interacts with some other medications, especially some of those used to treat bipolar disorder or seizures*, like Depakote or Tegretol. Be sure to tell your doctor all of the medicines you are taking, although in many cases this may already be known.

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

*Tremors: Shakes

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Lithium:

**Lithium Carbonate (also known as Eskalith, Lithobid, Lithonate and Lithotabs)
Lithium Citrate Syrup**

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

Lithium is used for a number of different purposes. It may be used to treat bipolar disorder (mood swings) or schizoaffective disorder. It has also been used to treat other conditions, such as depression, impulsive behavior, or to improve treatment of schizophrenia. Your doctor can explain these other purposes as they apply to you.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Increased thirst, Increased urination, Nausea, Weight gain, Hand tremors,* Tiredness, Metallic taste, Thyroid problems.

Less Common:

Drowsiness*, Memory problems, Attention or concentration problems, Muscle weakness, Acne.

Side effects that require immediate medical attention:

Vomiting, Diarrhea, Tiredness, Severe trembling in arms or legs, Difficulty speaking, Slurred speech, Seizures*

In order to make sure the level of drug in your body is correct, and to reduce the chances of serious side effects of long-term, use such as thyroid and kidney function, occasional blood tests will be done while you are taking this medication.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known, however some birth defects are believed to be associated with its use. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell

Lithium (con't)

you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breastfeeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like drowsiness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in children younger than 12 years old. However, its use in children younger than 12 years has been published in the medical literature.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions: Taking over-the-counter pain relievers, such as naproxen or ibuprofen (not Tylenol [acetaminophen] may potentially raise your lithium level. Please discuss this with your healthcare team if long-term use is needed.

Glossary Definitions

*Tremors: Shakes

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Olanzapine/Fluoxetine (also called Symbyax)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is a combination of two drugs, *olanzapine* (an antipsychotic drug) and *fluoxetine* (a selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor – SSRI antidepressant). It is used to treat a certain type of mental/emotional disorder (depression associated with bipolar disorder). It works by helping to restore the balance of certain natural chemicals in the brain.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Weight gain, Sedation, Agitation, Dizziness, Constipation or diarrhea, Dry mouth, Restlessness, Trouble sleeping, Unusual dreams, Decreased sexual arousal, Liver test problems, and Blood sugar problems.

Weight gain may occur on this medication and can be preventable in many cases if the right support and strategies are in place. The cause of weight gain is unknown but may be involved with appetite control, such as not feeling full, leading to more eating. People who gain weight are at risk of developing diabetes (see below) or having problems with fats in their blood that can contribute to heart disease. Talk with your treatment team about how to prevent weight gain.

Diabetes (trouble with sugar control) may be more of a risk for people who take this medication. Your ethnic background, family history and medical history may also affect your risk of developing diabetes. Please be sure to discuss these risks with your healthcare provider.

Less common:

Seizures,* difficulty swallowing, Muscle stiffness, Tremors,* Slowed muscle movements, Muscle spasms, Changes in body temperature (too hot or too cold), Worsening of glaucoma* (if this were to happen you would get severe eye pain, and you would need medical help)

Males: In the very unlikely event you have a painful, prolonged erection, stop using this drug and seek immediate medical attention or permanent problems could occur.

Tardive dyskinesia:

This side effect can happen to people that take this kind of antipsychotic medication for a long time. Usually it does not appear until after 6 months or more of treatment. It involves uncontrollable and abnormal muscle movements. These movements may not go away even if the medication is stopped.

The risk for developing tardive dyskinesia is substantially less with this medication as compared to older antipsychotics. If you have more questions about this side effect, speak with your healthcare provider.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome:

This is a rare problem that can happen with any antipsychotic medication. People that get this side effect have a change in the way they act, a fever, muscle stiffness, and changes in their blood pressure and heart rate. Although it is rare and most people recover completely, some people have died from this problem. If you develop these symptoms contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not well known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication it is best to talk to your doctor first.

Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

*Glaucoma: A group of disorders characterized by progressive damage to the eye, at least partly due to changes in eye pressure.

*Tremors: Shakes

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Oxcarbazepine (also known as Trileptal)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is commonly used to treat certain types of seizures* (convulsions). It has also been used to treat other conditions such as bipolar disorder (mood swings) or facial nerve pain. Your doctor can explain these other purposes as they apply to you.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Somnolence, Dizziness, Fatigue, Nausea, Abnormal vision, Rash, and Acne

Less common:

Severe skin rashes, Low white blood cell and platelet counts

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will likely be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

Oxcarbazepine is approved by the FDA to treat certain types of seizures* in children aged 4 and older. Dosing is based on the person's weight.

Oxcarbazepine (also known as Trileptal) (con't)

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

***Seizures:** Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Topiramate (also known as Topamax)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is commonly used to treat certain types of seizures* (convulsions). It may also be used to treat other conditions such as bipolar disorder (mood swings). Your doctor can explain these other purposes as they apply to you.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Somnolence, Dizziness, Weight loss, Coordination problems, Tiredness, Jerking movements of the eyes, Nervousness, Difficulty with concentration, Memory and possible speech difficulty

Less common:

Decrease in urination, Kidney stones, and secondary angle closure glaucoma.* Contact your physician immediately if you experience blurred vision or eye pain. Symptoms typically occur within the first month of treatment

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will likely be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Topiramate (also known as Topamax) (con't)

Children and adolescents:

Topiramate is approved by the FDA to treat certain types of seizures* in children aged 2 and older. Dosing is based on the person's weight.

Elderly patients and those with kidney problems:

Topiramate is removed from your body by the kidneys. As people age, their kidneys may work slower. For this reason the dose of *topiramate* is adjusted based on how well your kidneys are functioning. A blood test may be needed to test your kidney function.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

It is recommended you drink several glasses of water each day while receiving *topiramate* to reduce the chance of developing kidney stones from dehydration.

Glossary Definitions

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

*Glaucoma: A group of disorders characterized by progressive damage to the eye, at least partly due to changes in eye pressure.

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Valproic Acid (also known as Depakene) Divalproex Sodium (also known as Depakote)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is commonly used to control certain types of seizures* (convulsions). It may also be used to treat bipolar disorder (mood swings), schizoaffective disorder and migraine headaches. * It is also used sometimes to treat other conditions such as impulsive behavior, and other mental illnesses. Your doctor can explain these other purposes as they apply to you.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Nausea, Gastric distress, Mild stomach cramps, Change in menstrual periods, Diarrhea, Tiredness, Weight gain, Hair loss, Memory or concentration difficulties.

Weight gain may occur on this medication and can be preventable in many cases if the right support and strategies are in place. The cause of weight gain is unknown but may be involved with appetite control, such as not feeling full, leading to more eating. People who gain weight are at risk of developing diabetes (see below) or having problems with fats in their blood that can contribute to heart disease. Talk with your treatment team about how to prevent weight gain.

Diabetes (trouble with sugar control) may be more of a risk for people who take this medication. Your ethnic background, family history and medical history may also affect your risk of developing diabetes. Please be sure to discuss these risks with your healthcare provider.

Less Common:

Tremor,* Drowsiness,* Dizziness, Unsteadiness, Liver test problems (rarely liver failure), Pancreatitis,* Unusual bleeding or bruising, Headache

In order to make sure the level of drug in your body is correct, and to reduce the chances of serious side effects, occasional blood tests will be done while you are taking this medication.

**Valproic Acid (also known as Depakene)
Divalproex Sodium (also known as Depakote) (con't)**

You should also report to your doctor immediately if you notice that you are bruising easily, have tiny purple skin spots, bloody nose, or dark urine, abdominal pain, nausea, and anorexia.* These might be signs of a problem with your liver or pancreas and further tests may be needed.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known, however some birth defects are believed to be associated with its use. Since there is some risk that it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like drowsiness,* could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The FDA has approved this medication for use in the treatment of seizures* in people 2 years and older, in the treatment of migraines* in people 16 years and older, and in the treatment of mania in people 18 years and older.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Valproic Acid (also known as Depakene)
Divalproex Sodium (also known as Depakote) (con't)

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Migraine Headaches: Throbbing headache, that causes moderate to severe pain, usually on one side of the head, is worsened by physical activity, light, sounds and smells, and can sometimes include nausea and vomiting.

*Seizures: Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

*Tremor: Shakes

*Pancreatitis: Sudden onset or long-standing inflammation of the pancreas that may be mild or life threatening.

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

*Anorexia: Loss of appetite resulting in too much weight loss and loss of nutrition.

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Verapamil (Calan, Isoptin, Verelan)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is used for a number of different purposes. *Verapamil* is commonly used to treat people with high blood pressure, fast heart rates, or angina. It has been determined by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be safe and effective for these purposes. *Verapamil* has also been used to treat other conditions not approved by the FDA, such as mania.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Constipation, Dizziness, Low blood pressure, Headache, Fatigue, Nausea

Less common:

Unusually slow heart rate, Fast or pounding heart beats, Rash, Worsening of heart function in some people with some types of pre-existing heart problems, Increased liver function tests (rarely liver damage)

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Verapamil (Calan, Isoptin, Verelan) (con't)

Children and adolescents:

The FDA has not approved this medication for use in the treatment of blood pressure and some heart problems in people younger than 18 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

V. STIMULANT MEDICATIONS ATTENTION-DEFICIT/ HYPERACTIVITY DISORDERS

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Please read the DISCLAIMER carefully before using the Manual.*

Psychostimulant Medications

Dextroamphetamine (also known as Adderall, Dexedrine)
Methylphenidate (also known as Concerta, Metadate, Ritalin)
Pemoline (also known as Cylert)

Purpose and benefits of these medications:

These medications are used to treat several different problems. The most common problem treated with these medications is attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in both young people and adults. *Dextroamphetamine* and *methylphenidate* are generally believed to be more effective than *pemoline* for this disorder. These medications are sometimes also used to treat depression in medically ill elderly people, or people that also have serious medical conditions (e.g., AIDS). In *dextroamphetamine* and *methylphenidate* can be used to treat a sleep disorder called narcolepsy.*

Risks of these medications:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication. If you have a history of drug abuse or drug addiction, please inform your physician.

Relatively common:

Trouble sleeping, Loss of appetite, Irritability, Weight loss, Stomachache, Headache, Nervousness, Restlessness, Dizziness

Less common:

Fast or pounding heartbeat, Increased blood pressure, Changes in mood (sad, depressed), Unusual muscle movements called tics, Changes in growth rate of some children (see special instructions below)

Unusual:

Irregular heartbeat, Psychosis

Pemoline:

The risk of liver problems with *pemoline* is greater than with the other medications in this group. Blood tests to detect problems with your liver will need to be done routinely while you are on this medication. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of this medication and ask you or your guardian to sign a special consent form for its use.

Psychostimulant Medications (con't)

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of these medications on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there are risks that they could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking these medications should be avoided because the medicines will likely be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. The dosage may need to be decreased for sometime before you stop. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

Some changes in growth rate may occur with some people treated with these medications.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved *methylphenidate* and *pemoline* for use in children less than 6 years old, and *dextroamphetamine* for use in children less than 3 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Try not to take these medications late in the day. This may make falling asleep more difficult. Your doctor may need to make adjustments in the time and dosage of these medications in order for you to receive the best effects and fewest side effects.

You may be allergic to the coloring agent, tartrazine, used in some formulations of *dextroamphetamine*.

Glossary Definitions

*Narcolepsy: Disorder where patient experiences recurring, unstoppable attacks of sleep during normal waking hours.

Pemoline-Cylert

PATIENT INFORMATION/CONSENT FORM FOR CYLERT (PEMOLINE)

Cylert⁷ (pemoline) should not be used by patients until there has been a complete discussion of the risks and benefits of Cylert therapy and written informed consent has been obtained.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Cylert therapy has been associated with liver abnormalities ranging from reversible liver function test increases that do not cause any symptoms, to liver failure which may result in death. Therefore, you should have a full discussion of the risks and benefits of Cylert before beginning therapy.

PATIENT CONSENT:

My (son, daughter, ward) _____ (s) treatment with Cylert has been explained to me by Dr. _____.

The following points of information, among others, have been specifically discussed and explained and I have had the opportunity to ask any questions concerning this information.

1. I, _____ (Patient/Parent/Guardian(s) name), understand that Cylert is used to treat certain types of patients with the behavioral syndrome called attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and that I (my son/daughter/ward) am that type of patient.
Initials: _____
2. I understand that there is a risk that I (my son/daughter/ward) might develop liver failure, which may result in death, while taking Cylert. I understand that this could occur even after long-term therapy.
Initials: _____
3. I understand that I (my son/daughter/ward) should have blood taken to test liver function before Cylert is begun, and every two weeks from then on while taking Cylert. I understand that although the liver function tests may help detect if I (my son/daughter/ward) develop liver damage, it may do so only after significant, irreversible and potentially fatal damage has already occurred.
Initials: _____
4. I understand that if I (my son/daughter/ward) stop taking Cylert and then restart it at a later time (e.g., after summer vacation), I (my son/daughter/ward) should again have blood taken to test liver function before Cylert is restarted, and every two weeks from then on while taking Cylert.
Initials: _____
5. I understand that I should immediately report any unusual symptoms to the doctor and should be especially aware of persistent nausea, vomiting, fatigue, lethargy, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, dark urine, or yellowing of the skin or eyes.
Initials: _____

I now authorize Dr. _____ to begin my (son/daughter/ward(s)) treatment with Cylert, or if treatment with Cylert has already begun, to continue this treatment.

Signature/Date

Address

City/State/Zip

(_____) _____ Telephone#:

PHYSICIAN STATEMENT:

I have fully explained to the patient (parent/guardian), _____ the nature and purpose of treatment with Cylert and the potential risks associated with that treatment. I have asked if he/she has any questions regarding this treatment or the associated risks and have answered these questions to the best of my ability.

Physician Signature/Date

NOTE TO PHYSICIAN:

It is strongly recommended that you retain a completed copy of this informed consent form in your patient(s) records.

SUPPLY OF PATIENT INFORMATION/CONSENT FORMS:

A supply of the Patient Information/Consent Forms as printed above is available, free of charge, by calling (847) 937-7302. Permission to use the above Patient Information/Consent Form by photocopy reproduction is hereby granted by Abbott Laboratories.

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Atomoxetine (also known as Strattera)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is commonly used to treat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in both young people and adults. *Atomoxetine* has been shown to be as effective as the other medications used to treat ADHD, but unlike those other medications, this medication is not a stimulant. This drug is also being studied for use in treating depression.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Stomach pain, Headache, Vomiting, Decreased appetite, Cough, Nausea, Irritability, Dizziness, Sleepiness

Less common:

Sexual difficulties,* increased blood pressure, Increased heart rate, Urinary retention,* Lightheadedness, Weight loss, Constipation, Dry mouth

Allergic Reaction:

One or a combination of the following symptoms, itching or rash, swelling in face or hands, swelling or tingling in the mouth or throat, chest tightness and/or trouble breathing. Medical attention should be sought if any of these signs or symptoms appear.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

Atomoxetine (also known as Strattera) (con't)

If you should choose to stop this medication it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in children less than 6 years old. Also, some changes in growth rate may occur with some people treated with this medication.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Sexual Difficulties: Loss of the ability to enjoy sex or to perform sexually.

*Urinary Retention: Difficulty in being able to pass urine.

VI. OTHER PSYCHOACTIVE OR ADJUNCTIVE MEDICATIONS

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Amantadine (also known as Symmetrel)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is used for a variety of purposes, including helping to control some of the side effects people get from antipsychotic medications. The side effects that may be controlled include muscle tremors,* muscle stiffness, slow monotone speech, expressionless facial appearance, exaggerated posturing of your head, neck, or jaw, difficulty swallowing, problems with eye movements, and restlessness.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Dizziness, Headache, Lightheadedness, Nausea, Difficulty sleeping, Nervousness, Anxiety, Difficulty concentrating

Less common:

Low blood pressure (especially early in treatment, when getting up suddenly from a lying or sitting position), Reddish purple colored skin especially on your legs, Swollen ankles, Decreased appetite (potential weight loss), Constipation, Dry mouth

Rare:

Psychosis, Weakness, Slurred speech

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

Amantadine (also known as Symmetrel) (con't)

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved this medication for use in children 1 year of age and older for the prevention and treatment of influenza A, one type of the “flu.” This is one of the other uses of *amantadine*. As a treatment for antipsychotic medication side effects, it is only approved by the FDA for adults.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Tremors: Shakes

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

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Anticholinergic Medications

Benztropine (also known as Cogentin)

Trihexyphenidyl (also known as Artane)

Specific Medication (list): _____

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This is one of several different medications used to help control some of the side effects people get from the antipsychotic medications. The side effects that may be controlled include restlessness, muscle tremors,* muscle stiffness, slow monotone speech, expressionless facial appearance, exaggerated posturing of your head, neck, or jaw, difficulty swallowing, and problems with eye movements.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Dry mouth, Blurred vision, Constipation, Difficulty passing urine

Less common:

Drowsiness,* Confusion, Memory problems, Dizziness, Unusually fast heartbeat, Skin rash

Rare:

Worsening of glaucoma* (if this were to happen, you would get severe eye pain, and you would need medical help)

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like drowsiness and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

Anticholinergic Medications (con't)

If you should choose to stop this medication it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved *Benztropine* (Cogentin) for use in children three years of age and older. However, its use in this age group is recommended with caution. *Trihexyphenidyl* (*Artane*) has no specific age-based dosing approval from the FDA and therefore should be considered not approved for use in children.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Tremors: Shakes

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

*Glaucoma: A group of disorders characterized by progressive damage to the eye, at least partly due to changes in the eye pressure.

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Beta Blockers

atenolol (Tenormin)
nadolol (Corgard)

metoprolol (Lopressor)
propranolol (Inderal)

Specific Medication: _____

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication has many different uses. *Beta blockers* are commonly used to treat a variety of heart and circulation problems such as high blood pressure and angina (chest pain caused by heart problems), migraine headaches, * and abnormal heart beats. They have been determined by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be safe and effective for these purposes and a number of other purposes. *Beta-blockers* have also been used to treat other conditions not approved by the FDA, such as anxiety, agitation or aggression, and tremors* that are a side effect of lithium. This is also one of several different medications used to help control some of the side effects people get from the antipsychotic medications. The particular side effect that may be controlled by this medication is restlessness.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Dizziness, Lightheadedness, Low blood pressure, Tiredness, Slow heart rate

Less common:

Confusion, Cold hands or feet, Swollen ankles or feet, Impotence,* Depression, Problems with sleep, Nightmares, Nausea, Diarrhea, Difficulty breathing or a night-time cough, Uneven heart beats

Special risks for some people (please inform your healthcare team if any apply):

People with diabetes may have problems with blood sugar control, and recognizing when they have low blood sugar.

People with asthma may have more trouble with breathing.

People with angina should not stop this medication suddenly, since this may cause a worsening of the angina.

Beta Blockers (con't)

Rare:

Allergic Reaction

One or a combination of the following symptoms: itching or rash, swelling in face or hands, swelling or tingling in the mouth or throat, chest tightness and/or trouble breathing. Medical attention should be sought if any of these signs or symptoms appear.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like drowsiness* and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug administration (FDA) has not approved *oral propranolol* for use in people younger than 18 years of age. However, FDA-approved information states that enough study has been done to allow fair estimates of safety and effectiveness in the treatment of heart and circulation problems in children. The FDA has not approved other *beta-blocker* medications for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Beta Blockers (con't)

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Migraine Headaches: Throbbing headache, that causes moderate to severe pain, usually on one side of the head, is worsened by physical activity, light, sounds and smells, and can sometimes include nausea and vomiting.

*Tremor: Shakes

*Impotence: Also called erectile dysfunction, is the inability to initiate or maintain an erection.

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

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Clonidine: (also known as Catapres)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is used for a number of different purposes. *Clonidine* is commonly used to control high blood pressure. It has been determined by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be safe and effective for this purpose. *Clonidine* has also been used to treat other conditions not approved by the FDA, such as the treatment of withdrawal from opiates, and other substances, treatment of a condition called Tourette's syndrome,* attention-deficit hyperactivity syndrome (ADHD), migraine headaches,* and in several other psychiatric conditions.

This medication is available in both a tablet form, and as a patch that is kept on your skin.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Dry mouth, drowsiness* and sedation, Constipation, Dizziness
(With the patch, local irritation of your skin can occur.)

Less common:

Low blood pressure (especially when standing up quickly), Headache, Fatigue, Weakness, Nervousness, Agitation, Depression, Rash, Nausea, Decreased sexual drive or ability

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk present, you and your doctor should discuss what options are available to you before you become pregnant. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. If you take *clonidine* while nursing, it will be in your breast milk. Breast-feeding an infant while taking this medication should be done with caution and only after discussing it with your doctor.

Clonidine: (also known as Catapres) (con't)

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is very important to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems and potential abrupt rise in blood pressure (rebound hypertension). **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in the treatment of high blood pressure in people younger than 12 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Tourette's Syndrome: An inherited disorder in which a patient suffers from frequent muscle or verbal tics, which are brief, rapid, and purposeless movements or speech.

*Migraine Headaches: Throbbing headache, that causes moderate to severe pain, usually on one side of the head, is worsened by physical activity, light, sounds and smells, and can sometimes include nausea and vomiting.

*Drowsiness: Sleepiness

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Diphenhydramine (also known as Benadryl)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is one in a group of medications called antihistamines. It is used for a number of different purposes. This is one of several different medications used to help control some of the side effects people get from the antipsychotic medications. The side effects that may be controlled include restlessness, muscle tremors,* muscle stiffness, slow monotone speech, expressionless facial appearance, exaggerated posturing of your head, neck, or jaw, difficulty swallowing, and problems with eye movements.

Another common use is to treat allergic conditions such as hay fever, or allergic reactions such as hives. It has also been used as a short-term treatment for sleeping problems, motion sickness, and for relief of cough and common cold symptoms.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Sedation, Sleepiness, Dizziness, Dry mouth, Blurred vision, Constipation, Upset stomach

Less common:

Difficulty passing urine, Confusion, Memory problems, Unusually fast heartbeat, Skin rash

Rare:

Worsening of glaucoma* (if this were to happen, you would get severe eye pain, and you would need medical help)

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk present, you and your doctor should discuss what options are available to you before you become pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will not only be in your milk and could effect your baby, but it may also decrease the amount of milk produced.

Diphenhydramine (also known as Benadryl) (con't)

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs or alcohol with this medication will make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Elderly patients:

This medicine may cause increased problems with sleep and other stimulant effects opposite to those in younger adults. When given this medication, elderly men have more frequent problems with difficulty passing urine than younger men.

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved this medication for use in the treatment of antipsychotic side effects in children weighing 20 pounds or more. It has been approved for use in the treatment of sleep problems in children 12 years and older.

Children may have increased problems with sleep and other stimulant effects opposite to those in adults.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Tremors: Shakes

*Glaucoma: A group of disorders characterized by progressive damage to the eye, at least partly due to changes in the eye pressure.

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Disulfiram (also known as Antabuse)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is used to help people that have had problems with alcohol abuse or dependence. It helps people to avoid using alcohol by causing a very unpleasant reaction if you drink even a small amount of alcohol.

Treatment with this medication is probably most effective when it is a part of an overall plan that includes some form of counseling to treat alcohol abuse.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication. The side effects marked with an asterisk (*) below, usually fade away after a couple of weeks of treatment with *disulfiram*. The side effects marked with a double asterisk (**) are defined in the Glossary at the end of this information sheet.

Relatively common:

Drowsiness,** Tiredness,* Rash.

Less common:

Headache,* Impotence,** Acne,* Metallic or garlic-like after-taste,* Loss of sensation and/or muscle weakness in your legs or arms, which usually improves after stopping the *disulfiram*

Rare:

Possible worsening of psychosis, Psychotic reactions, Liver problems, and vision problems called optic neuritis that usually improves after stopping the *disulfiram*

Risk of drinking alcohol while taking this medication:

Unlike some the reactions listed above, the reactions listed here are likely to happen to you if you drink alcohol while taking this medication. The symptoms, which may be more or less intense, include: flushing, throbbing in the head and neck, throbbing headache, shortness of breath, rapid breathing, nausea, vomiting, sweating, thirst, chest pain, pounding heartbeat, rapid heartbeat, low blood pressure causing dizziness or fainting, anxiety, weakness, blurred vision, and confusion. Most often these reactions last from 30 minutes to a few hours, followed by sleep and full recovery. However, there is a chance that such a reaction may lead to even more serious problems such as extremely low breathing rates, ineffective blood circulation complicated by irregular heartbeats, heart attack, or heart failure, unconsciousness, seizures,* and even death.

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOL!!

Disulfiram (also known as Antabuse (con't)

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known, but abnormal births possibly linked to *disulfiram* use during pregnancy have been reported. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be avoided because the medicine will be in your milk.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. Using street drugs with this medication may make this side effect and possibly others worse, and are best avoided.

You should not start this medication until you have been sober for at least 12 hours.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication **WILL NOT** immediately stop you from getting the bad reactions described above. You will continue to have a chance of these reactions for about two weeks after you stop the *disulfiram*. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Disulfiram (also known as Antabuse (con't)

You must avoid all sources of alcohol while taking this medication. This includes the alcohol that may be in some medications, such as cough and cold remedies that you can buy at a pharmacy or food store without a prescription. Be sure to check the ingredients in any product you use. Some people may even react to products that are used on your skin, such as aftershave lotion, but this is unlikely to happen.

Glossary Definitions

***Drowsiness:** Sleepiness

***Impotence:** Also called erectile dysfunction, is the inability to initiate or maintain an erection.

***Seizures:** Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information (2004)

The following information is intended to supplement, not substitute for, the expertise and judgment of your physician, pharmacist or other healthcare professional. It should not be construed to indicate that use of the drug is safe, appropriate, or effective for you. Consult your healthcare professional before using this drug. Use of the Medication Information Manual is subject to the DISCLAIMER at the beginning of this Manual. Please read the DISCLAIMER carefully before using the Manual.

Naltrexone (also known as ReVia, and previously as Trexan)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

This medication is used to help people that have had problems with alcohol dependence or addiction to narcotic drugs. It helps people to avoid using those substances in the future. Treatment with this medication is most effective when it is a part of an overall plan that includes some form of counseling to treat alcohol or narcotic use.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

Nausea, Vomiting, Dizziness, Problems with sleep, Anxiety, Nervousness, Stomach pain or cramps, Low energy, Joint and muscle pain, Headache, Loss of appetite and weight loss

Less common:

Liver problems (signs of this may include stomach pain lasting several days or more, white bowel movements, dark urine, yellowing of your eyes or skin)

This medication is not like disulfiram (Antabuse). It does not cause a violent reaction like disulfiram when taken with alcohol.

Risks in pregnancy:

The effects of this medication on a pregnancy are not completely known. Since there is some risk it could be harmful to a fetus, it is important to avoid becoming pregnant. Your doctor can tell you what options are available to you. If you intend to become pregnant or believe you may be pregnant already, you should talk to your doctor about your choices. Breast-feeding while taking this medication should be discussed with your doctor beforehand.

Other risks:

Some side effects, like sedation and dizziness, could make it dangerous to drive a car or do other things that require you to be alert. This medication does not reverse the harmful effects of alcohol on your ability to perform these activities. Using this medication with narcotics may result in the narcotic causing severe problems with breathing before the narcotic causes the desired effect. It is advisable for you to carry identification that would tell emergency medical people that you are taking this

medication. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Other ways to treat your illness:

Other medications and non-drug methods may be available to treat your illness. You may ask your doctor to give you more information about these other medications or treatments and their benefits and risks.

Your participation in a comprehensive treatment plan is important to successfully stay drug or alcohol free.

Children and adolescents:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved this medication for use in people younger than 18 years old.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Medication Information Form (2004)

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Please read the DISCLAIMER carefully before using the Manual*

Thyroid hormones (Also known as Levoxyl, Synthroid, levothyroxine, T₄, Cytomel, liothyronine, T₃, Thyrolar, liotrix, T₃/T₄)

Purpose and benefits of this medication:

These medications are most commonly used to treat people who have a deficiency in their thyroid hormones. This condition is called hypothyroidism. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the use of these medications for this condition. Some doctors have used these medications to treat other conditions not approved by the FDA. Among these other conditions are depression and certain types of bipolar disorder.

Risks of this medication:

The following are some of the possible side effects that may happen while taking this medication.

Relatively common:

(Side effects from these medications usually only happen at the beginning of treatment or when the dose is too high. These side effects may mean you need to have your doctor check on the amount of medication you are taking.)

Nervousness, Headache, Excessive sweating, Trouble tolerating heat, Trouble sleeping, Decreased appetite, Fast or pounding heartbeat, For women, Changes in menstrual cycle are possible.

Less common:

If you experience any of these side effects, you should contact your doctor as soon as possible or get emergency care: Skin rash or hives, Chest pain, Shortness of breath.

When used in doses that result in levels of thyroid in your body that are higher than your body would normally have, there may be some risk of a bone problem called osteoporosis.* Women past menopause probably have the highest risk of this side effect.

Risks in pregnancy:

When taken during pregnancy for treatment of hypothyroidism, no harmful effects of this medication are known to occur to the fetus. This may be due to the fact that this medication does not readily go from the mother to the fetus.

However, breast-feeding while taking this medication should be done with caution and physician supervision because the medicine will be in your milk.

Thyroid hormones (con't)

Other risks:

People with diabetes mellitus ("sugar diabetes"), some kinds of heart trouble, or with high blood pressure may have additional risks from these medications. If you have one of these conditions, be sure your doctor knows this. Having one of these illnesses does not necessarily mean you cannot take one of these thyroid medications, or that you will have a problem if you do take one of them. Your doctor will be able to explain what risks, if any, apply to you. Using street drugs with this medication may make some of the side effects worse, and are best avoided.

If you should choose to stop this medication, it is best to talk to your doctor first. Stopping the medication suddenly may cause problems, especially in people who have diabetes. **If you forget to take a dose of your medication, do not take double the dose but wait until the next dose is due or contact your physician, nurse, or pharmacist for instruction.**

Children and adolescents:

The FDA has approved these medications for use in people younger than 18 years old for the treatment of hypothyroidism and related conditions. The FDA has not approved these medications for the treatment of psychiatric disorders in children or adults.

Be sure to tell your provider if you are taking other medications or herbal supplements because they may interfere or interact with your prescribed medication.

Potential Drug Interactions that you should be particularly concerned about:

Special Instructions:

Glossary Definitions

*Osteoporosis: Progressive decrease in the density of bones that weakens them and makes them more likely to break.

**VII. Changes and/or Medications
added
After Publication Date**

Changes and/or Medications Added after Publication Date (April 2004)

[illegible]

Please check the DMH website: www.mass.gov/dmh/publications for updates and changes.

VIII. GLOSSARY and INDEX

Glossary

<u>Agranulocytosis:</u>	A medical term for “low white blood cell count.” White blood helps help fight infection, so if your white blood cell count gets too low, you may be less protected to fight infections such as pneumonia.
<u>Akathisia:</u>	A condition characterized by uncontrollable motor restlessness.
<u>Akinesia:</u>	The loss or impairment of voluntary activity of a muscle.
<u>Allergic Reaction:</u>	One or a combination of the following symptoms: itching or rash, swelling in face or hands, swelling or tingling in the mouth or throat, chest tightness and/or trouble breathing. Medical attention should be sought if any of these signs or symptoms appear.
<u>Anorexia:</u>	Loss of appetite resulting in too much weight loss and loss of nutrition.
<u>Glaucoma:</u>	A group of disorders characterized by progressive damage to the eye, at least partly due to changes in eye pressure.
<u>Drowsiness:</u>	Sleepiness.
<u>Dystonia:</u>	State of disordered tonicity of tissues (as of muscle). Very bad muscle spasm.
<u>Hyperthermia:</u>	Very high fever.
<u>Impotence:</u>	Also called erectile dysfunction, is the inability to initiate or maintain an erection.
<u>Migraine Headaches:</u>	Throbbing headache, that causes moderate to severe pain, usually on one side of the head, is worsened by physical activity, light, sounds and smells, and can sometimes include nausea and vomiting.
<u>Narcolepsy:</u>	Disorder where patient experiences recurring, unstoppable attacks of sleep during normal waking hours.
<u>Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome:</u>	This is a group of things that may occur all at once when taking antipsychotic medications. They include high temperature, muscle stiffness, dizziness, and loss of consciousness. This does not happen very often but when it does can be life threatening.

<u>Osteoporosis:</u>	Progressive decrease in the density of bones that weakens them and makes them more likely to break.
<u>Pancreatitis:</u>	Sudden onset or long-standing inflammation of the pancreas that may be mild or life threatening.
<u>Seizures:</u>	Describes various experiences and behaviors that happen when something irritates the brain, including jerking and spasms of muscles throughout the body, brief loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, loss of bladder control and confusion.
<u>Sexual difficulties:</u>	Loss of the ability to enjoy sex or to perform sexually.
<u>Tardive Dyskinesia:</u>	Uncontrolled muscle movements.
<u>Tourette's Syndrome:</u>	An inherited disorder in which a patient suffers from frequent muscle or verbal tics, which are brief, rapid, and purposeless movements or speech.
<u>Tremors:</u>	Shakes
<u>Urinary Retention:</u>	Difficulty in being able to pass urine.

Index of Brand Name Medications

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Page#</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>Page#</u>
Abilify®	42	Nardil®	15
Adderall®	82	Navane®	36
Ambien®	12	Neurontin®	63
Anafranil®	21	Norpramin®	21
Antabuse®	100	Pamelor®	21
Artane®	91	Parnate®	15
Ascendin®	21	Paxil®	18
Ativan®	8	Prolixin®	36
Benadryl®	98	Prolixin Decanoate®	36
Buspar®	10	Prozac®	18
Calan®	79	Remeron®	27
Carbatrol®	61	Risperdal®	54
Catapres®	96	Risperdal Consta®	54
Celexa®	18	Ritalin®	82
Clozaril®	45	Serentil®	39
Cogentin®	91	Seroquel®	51
Concerta®	82	Serzone®	29
Corgard®	93	Sinequan®	21
Cylert®	82	Sonata®	12
Depakene®	76	Stelazine®	36
Depakote®	76	Strattera®	86
Desyrel®	31	Surmontil®	21
Dexedrine®	82	Symmetrel®	89
Effexor®	33	Synthroid®	105
Elavil®	21	Tegretol®	61
Eskalith®	67	Tenormin®	93
Geodon®	57	Thorazine®	36
Haldol®	36	Tofranil®	21
Haldol Decanoate®	36	Topamax®	74
Inderal®	93	Tranxene®	8
Klonopin®	8	Trexan®	103
Lamictal®	65	Trilafon®	36
Levoxyl®	105	Trileptal®	72
Lexapro®	18	Valium®	8
Librium®	8	Vivactil®	21
Lithobid®,	67	Wellbutrin®	24
Lithonate®	67	Xanax®	8
Lithotabs®	67	Zoloft®	18
Lopressor®	93	Zyprexa®	48
Loxitane®	36	Zyprexa Injection®	48
Luvox®	18		
Mellaril®	39		
Metadate®	82		
Moban®	36		

Index of Generic Medications

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Page#</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>Page#</u>
Alprazolam.....	8	Nadolol.....	93
Amantadine.....	89	Naltrexone.....	103
Amitriptyline.....	21	Nefazodone.....	29
Amoxapine.....	21	Nortriptyline.....	21
Aripiprazole.....	42	Olanzapine.....	48
Atenolol.....	93	Olanzapine Injection.....	48
Atomoxetine.....	86	Oxcarbazepine.....	72
Benzotropine.....	91	Paroxetine.....	18
Bupropion.....	24	Pemoline.....	82
Buspirone.....	10	Perphenazine.....	36
Carbamazepine.....	61	Phenelzine.....	15
Chlordiazepoxide.....	8	Propranolol.....	93
Chlorpromazine.....	36	Protriptyline.....	21
Citalopram.....	18	Quetiapine.....	51
Clomipramine.....	21	Risperidone.....	54
Clonazepam.....	8	Risperidone Injection.....	54
Clonidine.....	96	Sertraline.....	18
Clorazepate Dipotassium..	8	Thioridazine.....	52
Clozapine.....	45	Thiothixene.....	36
Desipramine.....	21	Thyroid Medications.....	105
Dextroamphetamine.....	82	Topiramate.....	74
Diazepam.....	8	Tranlycypromine.....	15
Diphenhydramine.....	98	Trazodone.....	31
Disulfiram.....	100	Trifluoperazine.....	36
Doxepin.....	21	Trihexphenidyl.....	91
Escitalopram.....	18	Trimipramine.....	21
Fluoxetine.....	18	Valproate.....	76
Fluphenazine.....	36	Valproic Acid.....	76
Fluvoxamine.....	18	Venlafaxine.....	33
Gabapentin.....	63	Verapamil.....	79
Haloperidol.....	36	Zaleplon.....	12
Imipramine.....	21	Ziprasidone.....	57
Lamotrigine.....	65	Zolpidem.....	12
Lithium.....	67		
Lorazepam.....	8		
Loxapine.....	36		
Mesoridazine.....	39		
Methylphenidate			
Derivatives.....	82		
Metoprolol.....	93		
Mirtazapine.....	27		
Molindone.....	36		